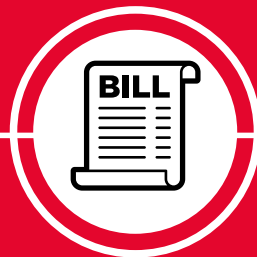


DECIDING TO SEPARATE – THINGS TO CONSIDER...



Bank Accounts

If you share a joint bank account with your former partner you will need to consider how this account is used and who will need access to the funds in that account.



Bills

When one partner moves out of the family home they need to consider if their name is on any of the bills for the family home.



Benefits

When one party moves out of the family home each former partner will then usually be considered by the Benefits Agency as living in separate households and as a result, they will then be assessed separately for any entitlement to state benefits.



Child Maintenance

If the children of the family are living with you after separation hopefully, it will be possible for you to reach agreement with your former partner as to the amount of maintenance they will pay to help support the children.



Spousal Maintenance

If any relevant child maintenance provision has been determined and the financial provision for the spouse who has primary care of the children is still insufficient for them to meet their reasonable outgoings, it is possible in some circumstances for them to make a claim for maintenance for themselves against the other spouse.